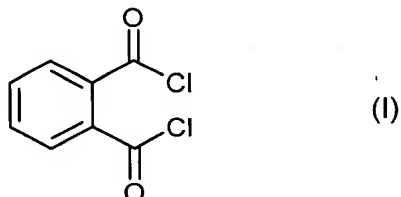


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

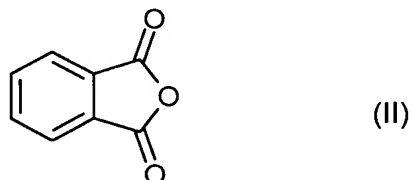
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

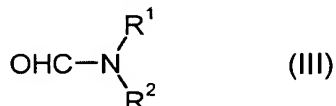
Claim 6 (previously presented): A process for preparing phthaloyl chloride of formula (I)



comprising reacting phthalic anhydride of formula (II)



with phosgene in the presence of an N,N-dialkylformamide of formula (III)



in which R¹ and R² are each independently straight-chain or branched alkyl, in the presence of an inert diluent at temperatures between 20°C and 150°C, wherein the phosgene and the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) are independently metered in continuously or semicontinuously and wherein from about 1.2 to about 2.5 mol of phosgene per mol of the phthalic anhydride are metered in at a rate of more than 0.2 mol/hr per mol of the phthalic anhydride.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the N,N-dialkylformamide of formula (III) is metered in continuously.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the N,N-dialkylformamide of formula (III) is metered in semicontinuously.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the phosgene is metered in continuously.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 7 wherein the phosgene is metered in continuously.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 8 wherein the phosgene is metered in continuously.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 7 wherein the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 8 wherein the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.